

which we write. In one of these the side was completely dull, slight bronchial respiration and bronchophony only being audible during ordinary, and a very minute crepitus during forced, inspiration.

"We have little further to add respecting the treatment, except that in no case was bleeding found expedient. In fact, such is the *constitutio anni*, that in very few diseases does bleeding seem to be judicious, as a remedial means. Tartrate of antimony and potash have never once disappointed in the course of the epidemic, in any one of the forms it has assumed, whether complicated with erysipelas, arthritis, or bronchitis. Even in those cases where the pulse was very feeble, its employment was equally attended by advantageous results, and, far from creating depression, it acted partially as an excitant, by removing disease. The existence of bowel complaints, which were only present in three or four cases, alone contraindicates its use. In the suffocative catarrh of children, after the ineffectual trial, in one case, of the protochloride of mercury and ipecacuanha, given at first with aperients, and subsequently, when the expectoration had become profuse, and the powers of life had begun to fail, ammonia and blisters being employed with but temporary benefit, the cautious administration of tartrate of antimony was followed by complete success. In the pneumonic cases, the administration of the protochloride of mercury, in small and repeated doses, to the extent of 6, 8, and 10 grains a-day, with dry cupping over and below the scapula, was successfully employed. For the dysentery, turpentine fomentations, and the proto-chloride of mercury and muriate of morphia, have been equally useful. In the colic, aperients; in the spasmodic vomiting, draughts, composed of aromatic spirit of ammonia, rhubarb, magnesia, and liq. opii sedativ., with mustard cataplasm, removed the symptoms. Full doses of castor oil were, in some cases, serviceable aperients.

"In the pneumonic cases, hydriodate of potash appeared to complete the cure which the mercury had nearly accomplished; the hydriodate removing the soreness of the mouth, and diminishing the subsequent debility. At the commencement, and at the decline, of the attack, occasional hot baths were useful. It is proper to add, that in some cases, in which we understand bleeding had been employed, the results were far from being favourable. This was particularly the case, when, misled by the urgency of the symptoms, it had been employed at the onset of the attack. Valuable assistance was derived from the use of the wine of the seeds of colchicum in the arthritic varieties, and from the sulphate of quinine in the intermittent, and in those cases of bronchitis which were attended with profuse expectoration and feeble pulse. In many cases dry cupping, directed to roomy parts, was found most decidedly beneficial; and so influential in its operation as sometimes almost to produce syncope, the pulse falling, the livid lips becoming pale, and subsequently gaining some degree of redness. Blisters, in the latter stages of the attack, were also serviceable."

## CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACY.

64. *Discovery of Sulphate of Quinine in the urine.*—PIORRY has remarked, that in 20 or 25 minutes after a person has taken sulphate of quinine, the urine tastes strongly bitter. He gave a quantity of urine of this kind to Vallée to analyze, who obtained from it sulphate of quinine in crystals (*Behrend's Report.*) Landerer, apothecary at Athens, obtained a similar result from the urine of a patient affected with intermittent fever, who had taken, in some paroxysms, 40 grains and even a drachm of muriate of quinine (*Buchner's Report.* 14, 1836.)—*British Annals of Medicine*, February 3, 1837.

65. *Crystals from the volatile tincture of Guaiacum.*—LANDERER observed, in a specimen preserved for 33 years, at the bottom of the vessel, a quantity of prismatic green crystals possessing an alkaline reaction, and, when mixed with lime, disengaging ammonia. The supernatant tincture contained but little ammonia. The crystals were therefore composed of the resin of guaiacum and ammonia.—*Ibid.* from *Buchner's Report.* vol. vi. p. 83.

66. *Method of preparing Aconitine.*—In another part of this Journal, (p. 223) we have noticed the success attendant upon the use of the aconitine in Neuralgia. Having been prevented experimenting with it ourselves, by the impossibility of procuring the article in our shops, we publish the following method of preparing

it from Turnbull's work on the medical properties of the Ranunculaceæ, in hopes that some of our apothecaries may be induced to furnish a supply of the preparation.

1. Let a quantity of the fresh root of the *Aconitum napellus* be cautiously dried, and reduced to powder, taking care not to inhale any of the fine dust. Digest one part of the powder by weight in two measures of strong alcohol, at a gentle heat for seven days, filter while hot, and reduce the fluid by slow evaporation to the consistence of an extract. The temperature by which this is effected must not be greater than barely sufficient to carry off the alcohol, otherwise the active principle will be destroyed or expelled. Liquid ammonia is then to be added to the extract, drop by drop, till, when stirred, it give out the odour of ammonia. If too much ammonia be added, the product will be decomposed. The mass now consists of impure aconitine, mixed with extractive and other matters soluble in water. The aconitine may be taken up with boiling alcohol or sulphuric ether, or the soluble matter may be removed by repeated washings with small quantities of cold water. If the latter plan be adopted, a quantity of light brown or gray powder will be left, which is to be purified by subsequent solution in alcohol. Aconitine is very powerful. Twenty drops of an alcoholic solution, in the proportion of one grain to a drachm of alcohol, being put into the mouth of a guinea pig, occasioned death in a few minutes.

2. Aconitine may be prepared in another way which yields it purer. Dissolve the alcoholic extract prepared as above, without adding ammonia, in as much cold water as will take it up, decant the solution from the insoluble part and filter it. To the filtered solution, add liquid ammonia drop by drop, as long as it occasions a precipitate. When the precipitate has subsided, draw off the supernatant liquid by a syphon. Dry the precipitate without heat, and either purify it by repeated washings with cold water, or, what is better, dissolve it in as much alcohol as will take it up, and throw the solution into cold water. A precipitate will be formed of a white colour, which is aconitine in its purest form. The product must be carefully dried.

### MEDICAL STATISTICS.

67. *Statistics of Calculus in Austria.*—The following tabular views are extracted from VON WATTMAN's recent Treatise on Lithotripsy and Lithotomy, (*Ueber die Steinzerbohrung und ihr Verhältniss zum Blasenschnitte*. Wien, 1835. 8vo.) and are founded on official documents supplied by Professor Raimann, of Vienna.

#### I. Calculous Cases in the Austrian Dominions, from 1820 to 1830.

| Provinces.  | Whole Population. | No. of Cal. Cases. |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| Vienna and Lower Austria, including the military, | 1,206,520         | 49                 |
| On the Ems and Salzburg                           | 835,043           | 18                 |
| Galitzia  | 4,316,086         | 19                 |
| Moravia   | 2,046,787         | 39                 |
| Bohemia   | 3,582,150         | 106                |
| The Tyrol   | 780,399           | 11                 |
| Styria  | 854,720           | 10                 |
| Illyria and Maritime States                       | 1,154,885         | 31                 |
| Venice and the Eight Provinces                    | 2,032,339         | 278                |
| Milan and Lombardy                                | 2,400,000         | 794                |
| Dalmatia  | 383,600           | 49                 |
| Total   | 19,592,529        | 1,449              |

Proportion, one case in 13,531 of the population.

#### II. Cases of Lithotomy in the Surgical Clinic of Vienna, during thirty-five years.

| Age of the Patients. | No. operated on. | Deaths. |
|----------------------|------------------|---------|
| From 1 year to 10    | 71               | 7       |
| — 11 — 20            | 42               | 3       |
| — 21 — 30            | 30               | 9       |
| — 31 — 40            | 12               | 3       |
| — 41 — 50            | 6                | 3       |
| — 51 — 60            | 11               | 6       |
| — 61 — 68            | 8                | 3       |
| Total                | 180              | 34      |